

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3923

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

CINCSOUTH

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0140

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MILL, EC

SUBJECT: NEW ORGANIC LAW FOR ARMED FORCES

REF.: A) QUITO 8397 B) GUAYAQUIL 1396

1. GOE HAS ANNOUNCED PROMULGATION OF NEW ORGANIC LAW FOR ARMED FORCES, PRINCIPAL PROVISION OF WHICH IS CREATION OF SEPARATE POSITION OF CHIEF OF JOINT STAFF. UNTIL NOW POSITION OF HEAD OF JOINT STAFF HAS BEEN HELD CONCURRENTLY BY ONE OF THREE SERVICE CHIEFS. PRESENT INCUMBENT IS AIR FORCE CHIEF GENERAL JORGE IZURIETA ITURRALDE. DETAILS OF NEW LAW WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY BY DAO.

2. IN STATEMENT TO PRESS JANUARY 6, GOE SEC GEN FOR ADMINISTRATION GENERAL CARLOS AGUIRRE ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ WOULD DESIGNATE NEW CHIEF OF JOINT STAFF WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, POSSIBLY FROM SERVICE OTHER THAN AIR FORCE. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SOME RUMORS ELEMENTS OF THE AIR FORCE ARE DISPLEASED WITH THIS COURSE OF EVENTS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE IZURIETA WILL LOSE HIS EARLIER POSITION OF PRESTIGE AND MAY IN FACT BE FORCED TO RETIRE. RUMORS GAINED SUFFICIENT MOMENTUM OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS TO PROVOKE FIRM DENIAL BY AGUIRRE IN ABOVE-MENTIONED PRESS CONFERENCE.

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3. MEANWHILE, THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTS OF A NUMBER OF IMMINENT CABINET CHANGES, INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT. WHILE THESE, TOO, HAVE DRAWN OFFICIAL PUBLIC DENIALS, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE AT LEAST SOME IMPORTANT GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES TO COINCIDE WITH THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE REGIME WHICH FALLS ON FEBRUARY 15.

HEMENWAY

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